

REMARKS:

Following an Election in response to a Restriction by the Examiner, Claims 12, 17 and 19 through 20 have been cancelled, without prejudice, after entry of the above-directed amendments.

Claims 16 and 18 are now remaining in the application and were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Claim 18 has been amended to correct this error and Claim 16, which depends from Claim 18, is likewise corrected thereby. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that this rejection now be removed.

Claims 16 and 18 are rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,872,106 ("Slater").

Claims 16 and 18 have been amended, as directed hereinabove, to specifically claim "reflective memories", which allow simultaneous reads and writes to multiple memories and are used in computer systems in which memory is shared among multiple CPU's and in which each computer always has an up-to-date local copy of the shared memory set. This subject matter is disclosed in paragraph [15] et seq, of the Specification.

A system architecture is achieved in the present invention with comparatively standardized components by use of a reflective memory unit jointly used by the automation devices. Only by use of the reflective memory system is performance achieved at a sufficiently high read/write rate in order to make the reflective memory system useful in highly complex technical systems such as power plants and the like. Furthermore, reflective memory networks usually interconnect their units via fiber-optic cable so that each automation device with its respective memory unit can be arranged at a comparatively long distance from the other automation devices. By making the jointly used memory unit a reflective memory network, the automation system can be used at a high safety standard when used in highly sensitive technologies like, for example, nuclear power plants. The inventive method allows for having the automation devices installed far off from one another, perhaps in different rooms or even different buildings of the technical system so that a specific highly selective safety standard can be achieved.

The Slater reference does not provide any indication that the jointly used/common memory area is a reflective memory network but describes a “dual port” memory accessed by two processors or CPU’s. This is a conventional embodiment of a common memory area that does not have the above-mentioned advantages of the applicant’s invention as currently defined, so that the system according to Slater is not adapted at all for applications in large-scale systems or in specific safety-relevant areas. Furthermore, the claimed method according to applicant’s redundant automation system can not be achieved by the system disclosed in Slater. Moreover, in the Slater system it is mandatory that the CPU’s, having access to the dual port memory, are arranged relatively close to each other, so that the separation of the CPU’s, which may be necessary for safety reasons, cannot be achieved as is possible with the claimed method.

In conclusion, the M.P.E.P., at section 2131 provides that a claim is anticipated only if each and every element as set forth in the claim is found, either expressly or inherently described, in a single prior art reference. The identical invention must be shown in complete detail as contained in the claim. The elements must be arranged as required by the claim. Accordingly, it is deemed that after entry of the above-directed amendments Applicants have distinguished their invention over the Slater reference, as well as all references of record.

It is hereby respectfully requested that the rejections be removed and the amended application be favorably reconsidered in light of the above amendments and Remarks and that claims 16 and 18 be allowed and the case passed to Issue.

Respectfully submitted,

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By: Janet D. Hood
Janet D. Hood
Registration No. 61,142
(407) 736-4234

Siemens Corporation
Intellectual Property Department
170 Wood Avenue South
Iselin, New Jersey 08830